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KLANG, APRIL 10 (BERNAMA)-- DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMED ADVISED STUDENT BODIES TODAY TO USE LEGITIMATE MEANS TO ACHIEVE THEIR OBJECTIVES.

+DIRTY TACTICS+ SUCH AS DEFAMING A PERSON, LYING, MAKING FALSE STATEMENTS, THREATENING AND MAKING USE OF RELIGION WERE UNCALLER FOR, HE SAID.

PEOPLE WHO MADE ANONYMOUS CHARGES WERE INSINCERE, HE SAID WHEN OPENING THE FEDERATION OF MALAY STUDENTS GENERAL MEETING AT THE ISLAMIC COLLEGE HERE.

+IF YOU WANT TO MAKE AN ALLEGATION, MAKE IT DIRECTLY SO THAT THE PERSON INVOLVED CAN DEFEND HIMSELF. ONLY COWARDS DO NOT FIGHT FAIR.+

DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE STRUGGLES OF STUDENT ORGANISATIONS IN THE PAST AND THE PRESENT WERE DIFFERENT.

IN THE PAST, THEY RESISTED BRITISH RULE WITHOUT JEOPARDISING THEIR EDUCATION BECAUSE EDUCATION WAS ONE OF THE ISSUES THEY WERE FIGHTING FOR.

NOWADAYS, SOME OF THE AIMS WERE +NOT SO DESIRABLE+ SUCH AS THAT REGARDING LONG HAIR. CERTAIN STUDENTS, HE SAID, WERE NOT ONLY WILLING TO SACRIFICE THEIR STUDIES BUT WERE ALSO DEPRIVING OTHERS OF THE OPPORTUNITY TO GET AN EDUCATION. --BERNAMA MORE 1210/1B

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WAS THIS WHY STUDENT ORGANISATIONS WERE SET UP? HE ASKED. HE SAID STUDENT BODIES WERE FORMED FOR THE BENEFIT OF STUDENTS BUT IT SEEMED THEY WERE MORE OF A STUMBLING-BLOCK.

ON THE FEDERATION, DR. MAHATHIR PRAISED ITS LEADERS FOR HAVING SHOWN THEIR MATURITY BY NOT ALLOWING THEMSELVES TO BE DRAGGED INTO AND ABUSED BY CERTAIN GROUPS FOR +UNHEALTHY+ ACTIVITIES.

FORMER LEADERS OF THE FEDERATION HAD ACHIEVED MANY THINGS HE SAID. THEIR NAMES, HE ADDED, WOULD BE REMEMBERED AND THOSE WHO ACHIEVED GREATNESS HAD NOT ACTED +WILDLY+.

SUCH ATTITUDES SHOULD BE EXAMPLES TO THE PRESENT LEADERS AND OTHER GROUPS WHO WISHED TO SEE STUDENTS PROGRESS, HE SAID.

DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT UNTIL TODAY, THE FEDERATION HAD NEVER DEVIATED FROM THEIR OBJECTIVES AND THEIR ACTIVITIES HAD ALWAYS BEEN POSITIVE.

+I HOPE THIS POSITIVE ATTITUDE WILL BE MAINTAINED,+ HE SAID. --BERNAMA MORE 1213/1B

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EARLIER, THE PRESIDENT OF THE FEDERATION, ENCIK FAUZI BASRI, SAID THE STRUGGLES OF THE ORGANISATION WERE BASED ON EDUCATION. HE SAID THE FEDERATION WAS ALWAYS CAREFUL IN ITS STRUGGLES AND AND DID NOT WISH TO INDULGE IN POLITICS.

HE ADDED THAT IT WAS NOT INFLUENCED BY THE ADVICE OR IDEOLOGY OF ANYONE IN MAINTAINING ITS GOOD NAME.

HE WELCOMED THE APPOINTMENT OF DR. MAHATHIR AS THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND SAID EACH MEMBER OF THE FEDERATION SUPPORTED THE MINISTER. --BERNAMA 1345/1B